

JPW/meyr

PATENT

SN-US020066

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Shigeharu TAIRA : Patent Art Unit: 3744
Serial No.: 10/501,553 :
Filed: July 16, 2004 :
For: METHOD FOR DETERMINING :
RECYCLABILITY OF REFRIGERANT- :
USE EQUIPMENT OR REFRIGERANT :
PIPING, AND CHECK TOOL FOR :
RECYCLABILITY OF REFRIGERANT- :
USE EQUIPMENT OR REFRIGERANT :
PIPING :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. Copies of the non-U.S. patents are attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to a first Office Action of this application. Thus, *no fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement*. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

A Japanese Office Action (copy attached) was issued on March 15, 2005 in the corresponding Japanese application. The Japanese Patent Office cited two new references, which are listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form.

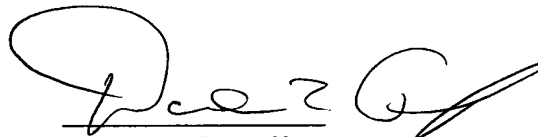
Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 2001-133566 discloses a method of displaying the expiration date of a food or a medicine. This publication was cited in the Japanese Office Action and references the label 1. An English abstract of this publication is provided to better understand the pertinence of this reference.

Japanese Laid-Open Utility- Model Patent Publication No. 02-146588 discloses a washing machine. This publication was cited of interest in the Japanese Office Action, but not relied upon.

* * *

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Tarnoff
Reg. No. 32,383

SHINJYU GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP
1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
(202)-293-0444
Dated: 3-31-05

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

| | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 |
|-------|---|----|---|

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Application Number | 10/501,553 |
| Filing Date | July 16, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor | Shigeharu TAIRA |
| Group Art Unit | 3744 |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | SN-US020066 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.